

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

INRE-00 IO-12 DPW-01 NIC-01 RSR-01 /095 W

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P R 301851 Z MAR 73

FM USDEL FRANCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6863

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 USDEL FRANCE 9012

E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: VIS, PINT

SUBJ: GVN- PRG BILATERALS: FOURTH PLENARY

1. SUMMARY: IN PREPARED STATEMENTS FOR FOURTH PLENARY SESSION OF GVN- PRG BILATERAL TALKS, BOTH SIDES PRESENTED SUMMARIES OF SITUATION SIXTY DAYS AFTER ACCORD, EACH CLAIMING SCRUPULOUS COMPLIANCE WITH TERMS OF PARIS AGREEMENT AND BLAMING OTHER FOR CONTINUED FIGHTING IN VIET- NAM AND CONTINUED IMPASSE IN PARIS DISCUSSIONS. GVN DEL VIEN WENT ON TO REITERATE STANDING GVN AGENDA PROPOSAL, AND AGAIN INVITED PRG TO JOIN A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES FROM SVN. BALANCE OF PRG DEL HIEU' S PRESENTATION CRITICIZED GVN FOR SEEKING TO SWEEP UNDER RUG QUESTION OF DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS, AND FOR BASING ITS ACTIONS ON " FOUR NOES" POLICY RATHER THAN PROVISIONS OF AGEEMENT. FIFTH PLENARY WILL BE HELD APRIL 3. END SUMMARY.

2. PLENARY PRESENTATIONS:

GVN: VIEN' S BILAN OF SITUATION AT X PLUS 60 NOTED THAT GVN, IN CONTRAST TO COMMUNISTS, HAD COMPLIED FULLY WITH TERMS OF AGREEMENT, CITING FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) ALL NVA/ VC PW' S HAVE BEEN REPATRIATED (WHEREAS LESS THAN 5000 OF ALMOST 32,000 ARVN PW' S WERE RETURNED); (B) LIST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF 5,081 CIVILIAN DETANINEES HAS BEEN COMPILED, TO WHICH GVN WILLING TO ADD OTHER PERSONS " WHOM YOU CONSIDER AS

CIVILIAN AGENTS WORKING FOR YOUR SIDE" (WHILE PRG HAS OFFERED TO RETURN ONLY 2 00 OF SOME 60,000 CIVILIANS IT HAS DETAINED); (C) GVN HAS REQUESTED CEASE- FIRE, ACTING ONLY IN SELF- DEFENSE, AND HAS FULLY COOPERATED WITH JMC AND ICCS (WHEREAS PRG, CLAIMING ITS FORCES ARE " NOBILE", HAVE REFUSED TO IDENTIFY THEIR LOCATIONS, IN CONTRAVENTION OF AGREEMENT, HAS TRIED TO OCCUPY AREAS UNDER GVN CONTROL, AND HAS OBSTRUCTED WORK OF ICCS AND JMC) ; AND (D) GVN HAS ADOPTED REASONABLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH TO BILATERAL TALKS WHILE PRG STALLS.

3. VIEN ASKED RHETORICALLY WHETHER SUCH STALLING TACTICS MIGHT BE DESIGNED TO GAIN TIME WHILE NEW COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE IS READIED, AND OPINED THAT ANY SUCH DARK ATTEMPT WOULD BE SMASHED. HE ONCE AGAIN URGED SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF AGENDA AND DEFENDED GVN AGENDA PROPOSALS AS BASED STRICTLY ON LETTER OF AGREEMENT (ARTICLES 12 AND 13). VIEN CONCLUDED WITH CALL TO PRG TO RESPECT CEASE- FIRE AND ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF AGREEMENT AND AGAIN INVITED PRG TO JOIN IN RESOLUTION DEMANDING WITHDRAWAL OF ALL EXTERNAL FORCES FROM SOUTH VIET- NAM.

4. PRG: HIEU' S SUMMARY OF POST- CEASEFIRE SITUATION WAS MIRROR IMAGE OF VIEN' S: PRG HAD " CLOSELY COOPERATED" WITH ICCS, STRICTLY RESPECTED CEASE- FIRE TERMS, RETURNED ALL US AND GVN PW' S, MADE EVERY EFFORT TO GUARANTEE DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES TO POPULATION UNDER IT CONTROL, AND BROUGHT ATTITUDE OF GREAT GOOD WILL TO BILATERAL TALKS. GVN, AND HIEU, AIDED AND ABETTED BY US , HAD " GRAVELY, SYSTEMATICALLY AND CONTINUALLY VIOLATED FUNDAMENTAL CLAUSES OF THE ACCORD". US HAD INCREASED NUMBERS OF ITS " DISGUISED CIVILIANS", CONTINUED ILLEGAL ARMS SHIPMENTS, AND SUPPORTED GVN IN ITS VIOLATIONS OF CEASE- FIRE. GVN MISDEEDS INCLUDED ENCROACHMENT OPERATIONS UPON LIBERATED ZONES, INTENSIFIED " PACIFICATION" ACTIVITY, DENIAL OF CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CONTINUED DETENTION OF CIVILIAN PRISONERS.

5. HIEU DEMANDED THAT US AND GVN CEASE FOREGOING VIOLATIONS, CONTINUATION OF WHICH WILL RENDER POLITICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SETTLEMENT IMPOSSIBLE. HIEU REGRETTE THAT EVEN AGREEMENT ON AGENDA HAD ELUDED BIPARTITE CONFERENCE. THIS HE ATTRIBUTED TO GVN ATTEMPT TO " SEPARATE" QUESTION OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES FROM OTHER ELEMENTS OF AGREEMENT, WHEREAS IT IS OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE AND URGENCY. HE DENOUNCED GVN ATTEMPTS TO " JUSTIFY" US VIOLATIONS OF AGREEMENT AND TO RAISE " SO- CALLED AGGRESSION FROM THE NOTH QUESTION". HIEU FURTHER DECLARED THAT

PARIS AGREEMENT IN EFFECT NEGATED GVN
CONSTITUTION AND LAWS, AS WELL AS " FOUR NOES" POLICY,
AND SAID GVN SHOULD ABANDON THEM, BASING ITS POLICY
INSTEAD ON PROVISIONS OF AGREEMENT.

6. PRESS CONFERENCES: PRG: POST- PLENARY PRESS
CONFERENCES GENERATED SOME HEAT BUT LITTLE LIGHT.
SAU FOR PRG, AFTER REVIEWING HIEU' S REMARKS IN PLENARY,
CRITICIZED PRESIDENT' S SPEECH OF MARCH 29 FOR FOCUSING
ON " ALLEGED" COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF AGREEMENT WHILE
IGNORING US/ GVN MISDEEDS . THIS WILL HAVE EFFECT OF
ENCOURAGING GVN TO FURTHER DISREGARD THE AGREEMENT,
SAID SAU, WHO ADDED THAT PRESIDENT' S REFERENCE TO
" CONSEQUENCES" OF COMMUNIST FAILURE TO ABIDE BY AGREE-
MENT DOES NOT FRIGHTEN VN PEOPLE.

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INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 PARIS 9012

7. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, SAU MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:
ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN SVN MUST BE FOR CONSTITUENT
ASSEMBLY WHICH WOULD DRAFT A NEW CONSTITUTION (TO
REPLACE CURRENT ONE " DRAFTED BY US EMBASSY"); US HAS
NOT RENOUNCED ITS INTERVENTIONIST DESIGNS, AS EVIDENCED
BY CONTINUED PRESENCE OF " MORE THAN 10,000 SO- CALLED
CIVILIAN ADVISERS", LARGE DAO, HUGHE CONGENS 159
MARINE GUARDS, AND AIR AND NAVAL FORCES IN THAILAND AND
7 TH FLEET; GVN " OFFER" TO RETURN ANDY CIVILIAN DETAINEES
CLAIMED BY PRG AS AGENTS IS PLOT, WHICH WOULD BRING CERTAIN
DEATH TO ANY PRISONER SO CLAIMED.

8. GVN: GVN PRESS SPOKESMAN DAN EMPHASIZED VIEN' S
ASSERTION THAT GVN AGENDA PROPOSALS ARE FIRMLY BASED ON
LANGUAGE OF AGREEMENT, AND EXPRESSED REGRET THAT PRG

ONCE AGAIN FORSOOK PROGRESS FOR POLEMIC. HE SAID THAT VIEN, IN RESPONSE TO HIEU' S COMPLAINTS RE CIVILIAN ADVISERS IN SVN, NOTED THAT JEC TALKS NOW UNDER WAY WOULD PROBABLY LEAD TO SIMILAR PRESENCE IN NVN AND SUGGESTED THEREFORE THAT PRG REFRAIN FROM FURTHER DISCUSSION OF SUCH EXTRANEIOUS MATTERS.

9. IN Q & A, DAN SAID THAT LISTS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS HAD NOT BEEN EXCHANGED, ALTHOUGH GVN HAD PREPARED SUCH A LIST (5,081 PERSONS). DAN SAID THAT SINCE GVN WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BURNED ON THIS ISSUE ONCE BEFORE (WHEN IT TURNED OVER COMPLETE LIST OF NVA/ VC PW' S AND GOT ONLY IMCOMPLETE LIST IN RETURN, WITH EXCHANGES TAKING PLACE ON THAT BASIS) , IT WILL EXCHANGE LIST OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES ONLY WHEN PRG COMES UP WITH SOMETHING MORE PLAUSIBLE THAN THE 200 THE NOW CLAIM AS TOTAL HELD. IN ANSWER TO OTHER QUESTIONS, DAN SAID THAT PROGRESS IN BIPARTITE TALKS IS TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON PRG ATTITUDE, WHICH HAS NOT THIS FAR BEEN SERIOUS. THUS, GVN SUSPICION THAT COMMUNISTS ARE STALLING IN PARIS WHILE PREPARING NEW OFFENSIVES IN SVN IS JUSTIFIED.

ISHAM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973FRANCE09012
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: FRANCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730346/abqcdxbf.tel
Line Count: 193
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GVN- PRG BILATERALS: FOURTH PLENARY
TAGS: VIS, PINT
To: STATE INFO SAIGON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005